

***In the Specification:***

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please substitute the current version of paragraph [0001] with the following paragraph:

*a*  
[0001] This application is a divisional of, and claims priority to, Application No. 09/148,503, filed on September 4, 1998. Application No. 09/148,503 claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/057,655, filed on September 5, 1997, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/093,297, filed on July 17, 1998. The entire contents of each of these applications are herein incorporated by reference.

***In the Claims:***

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following claims:

*Proprietary*  
*Information*  
[0002] 33. (New) A method of assessing an individual's risk of developing AD comprising isotyping a blood tissue or cell sample taken from an individual, wherein said sample comprises  $\alpha_2$ M, to determine whether said sample contains the  $\alpha_2$ M-2 variant.

*a2*  
[0003] 34. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising drawing a conclusion regarding said individual's risk of developing Alzheimer's disease based on the existence of the  $\alpha_2$ M-2 variant in said sample, wherein a finding that said sample contains said  $\alpha_2$ M-2 isoform indicates that said individual is at risk for developing AD.

[0004] 35. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising isotyping said sample to determine whether said sample contains the  $\alpha_2$ M-1 variant.